

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., NOVEMBER 6, 1937

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Saturday, November 6, 1937. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Dorie,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Marship,
also H. T. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting held in New York City on September 29, 1937, were approved.
2. SCULPTURE FOR FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (APEX BUILDING): Under date of October 16, 1937, the following letter was received from the Section of Painting and Sculpture submitting the photograph of a model by Carl L. Schmitz for sculpture on the Constitution Avenue side of the Apex Building:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Enclosed is a photograph of a full size sculpture model by Mr. Carl L. Schmitz of New York City, designed for an overdoor relief at one of the two Constitution Avenue entrances to the Apex Building, Washington, D. C.

The sculpture panel is 12' wide by 7' high and will be carved in limestone. The border executed on the left side of the panel will be extended across the top and down the right side in the carving.

The comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Inslee A. Hopper,
Assistant Superintendent,
Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The photograph was submitted to Mr. Manship for criticism. The model symbolizes ivory trade with Africa. The location of the panel over the door was noted on the blueprint of the Constitution Avenue side of the building. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Manship the Commission approved the model.

(Exhibit A)

3. SCULPTURE FOR THE FEDERAL TRANS COMMISSION BUILDING: Under date of November 1, 1937, the following letter was received from the Section of Painting and Sculpture, regarding the model by Miss Concetta Scarsongliane for sculpture on the Constitution Avenue side of the Anson Building:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Enclosed is a photograph of a full size sculpture model by Miss Concetta Scarsongliane of New York City, designed for a door relief at one of the Constitution Avenue entrances to the Anson Building, Washington, D. C.

The sculpture panel is 12' wide by 3' high and will be carved in limestone.

The comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts would be appreciated.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Thelma A. Tappan,
Assistant Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture.

The model suggests trade in wheat. The photograph was submitted to Mr. Manship for criticism. The location of the panel over the door was noted on the blue print of the Constitution Avenue side of the building. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Manship the Commission approved the model. (Exhibit B)

4. MARCONI MEMORIAL: Under date of September 20, 1937, Honorable Kent E. Keller, Chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts concerning H. J. Res. 485 "Authorizing the erection of a memorial to the late Guglielmo Marconi".

Copies of the bill had been sent to the members of the Commission. Mr. Moore had prepared a memorandum on the subject and a report based upon the memorandum was prepared for Congressman Keller. The Commission approved the report. (Exhibit C)

In his memorandum Mr. Moore suggested using the grounds of the Army Signalment Wireless Station in Arlington County for a Memorial Park. The Signalment reported that he had communicated with the Navy Department of Signals and they would protest against using their grounds while the Wireless Station is in operation. The report on the bill, therefore, made no mention of the location. Mr. Clarke said the question of location could be deferred until Congress should legislate for the Memorial.

5. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL PARK SITE CHALLENGE: Mr. Clarke said that he had been informed that both Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Foster are desirous of using their lot for their statuary for the Lincoln Memorial Park. Also a letter on the subject had been received from Mr. Randall, as follows:

October 9, 1935.

Dear Mr. Chamberlain:

"I sent a letter recently to Mr. Moore addressed to all parties in Washington, and the letter was returned this morning. I understand the situation exactly. Mr. Moore is still in Seattle.

"What I wished to know was who is in charge at present of the construction of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. I have been in communication with the sculptors for the four groups on the Washington side, and the one figure in the niche at the entrance to the Statuary. They all agree that the expense to the Government would be greatly reduced if the statuary were carried in boats to Seattle instead of by means of the bridge."

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) W. B. Randall.

The matter had been taken up with the National Park Service and in a reply from Acting Director Denny (Exhibit D) the Commission were informed that there would be no objection on the part of that office to the use of Georgia marble.

In reply to the question raised as to the amount that could be saved by the use of marble Mr. Fraser reported that there would be a large saving in the carving but only about \$1,500 in the cost of the stone. Mr. Friedlander reported a "substantial saving could be effected".

Mr. Manship said he would like to see each of the statues cut out of one piece of stone; at any rate the bigger the pieces are the better.

After discussion the Commission unanimously approved the use of Georgia marble instead of granite for this work and a report was sent to the National Park Service accordingly with the recommendation that the necessary funds for the statuary be made available as soon as possible. (Exhibit D-1).

Later in the day the Commission discussed the matter of funds for the statuary with Mr. Finnan, who reported that the question is being taken up with the Bureau of the Budget and the Comptroller General of securing an additional allowance of about \$25,000 each, which the sculptors claim they must have so that they will complete the statuary without loss to themselves due to the increase in prices since they made their contracts with the Government.

6. NEW PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE BRIDGE SOUTHEAST: Mr. Clarke brought to the attention of the Commission three blue prints from McKim, Mead and White, suggesting changes in the design of the proposed new Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, S. E. A memorandum concerning these changes was followed and the various items were read and discussed. The important items agreed to were as follows:

1. Piers: All piers to be skewed. All breaks in plan, and cut-waters, to be omitted.

2. Abutments: The Commission disapproved the suggestion to have obelisks at each end of the bridge to mark the entrances; also the Commission are opposed to the use of exposed concrete on the wing walls. Bronze grilles should not be located so as to show on the exposed outer surfaces of the walls.

3. Sidewalks: The Commission concurs in the suggestion to have six-foot concrete sidewalks and concrete gutters.

4. Lamp Posts: The Commission concurs in the placing of the lamp posts on the railing, spaced over the piers at approximately 154-foot intervals. It is understood that this will result in staggering the posts.

5. Materials: The Commission agrees that rock face finish should be avoided and concurs in the suggestion for the use of granite with rough sawn or medium pointed finish. Sawn faced granite should be avoided. The use of Aquia Creek stone was disapproved.

6. Painting: The Commission recommended that a warm gray paint be used on the exposed steel so that the color will harmonize with the color of the masonry. The Commission would welcome the use of stainless steel hand railing.

7. Shortening Wall at Ends of Bridge: The Commission concurs in the suggestion that the long wall on the north side of the west abutment and also the corresponding wall on the south side of the east abutment be shortened as indicated in yellow pencil on the blue print.

It is understood that the symmetry at the ends of the bridge as viewed from the roadway will be maintained by continuing the heavy balustrade as indicated in the drawing.

A report was sent to McKim, Mead and White accordingly. (Exhibit B)

7. H B FURNITURE COMPANY STORE BUILDING: Mr. Stanley Abbott of the firm of Abbott McKim & Company, 10 East 40th Street, New York City, appeared before the Commission and submitted a design for remodeling the H B Furniture Store Company Building at 11th and D Streets, N. Y.

It was noted that technically the location is not within the Elfreth-Lucas Act area although the building can be seen from Pennsylvania Avenue. However, in accordance with the desire expressed by Mr. Abbott the Commission offered to assist him with the design.

Mr. Abbott explained that certain motifs seen in the design had been prescribed by the furniture company. He showed from photographs that the remodeling will improve the present appearance of the building. The store will be near

stories high or about 60 feet to the top of the parapet. The exterior will be of cream-colored glazed tile with rows of windows and fluted pilasters at intervals.

Mr. Lamb criticized the colored bands of dark blue, and said just as good an effect can be secured by means of shadow from a projecting sill or moulding. The important changes recommended were as follows:

Omission in the parapet of the projection (or recalling) of the fluted pilasters, the entire parapet to be given a continuous treatment.

Omission of the three bands of blue at the window sill line, securing a similar effect by shadow rather than color. This may be accomplished by projecting sill or moulding.

Study the curved band of color on the T Street front near the corner, to see if this curve cannot be omitted and changed into rectangular treatment.

In accordance with arrangement made Mr. Lamb will inspect Mr. Abbott's revised design prior to resubmission to the Commission at the 1938.

8. GENERAL ARTHEAL TANK GIANT: The Commission considered a preliminary drawing for the inscription on the pedestal of the General Artheal Tank Giant submitted by the J. S. Manning Company, the local contractors who are setting in the pedestal. The Commission made a few suggestions with a view to making the greater part of the inscription a more even edge. These suggestions were embodied in a report to the Manning Company (Exhibit F). A revised design is to be submitted for final approval.

Mr. Manning said that the foundations for the pedestal have been put in place at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues and in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission the statue will face Massachusetts Avenue squarely.

9. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of November 3, 1937, Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting

and Sculpture of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, submitted the following letter together with sketches for mural paintings to go on the second floor of the Interior Department Building:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

In accordance with our telephone conversation I am submitting for the comment and advice of the Commission four two inch scale color sketches for the proposed mural decoration in the New Department of the Interior Building by Mr. Nicolai Cikovsky.

The subject matter of these four panels was given to Mr. Cikovsky by the Department of the Interior and the Designer, from that standpoint, have the approval of the Department.

Attached are two photographs showing where these paintings are to be located on the second floor, south of the main stairway.

Thanking you, I am

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture.

The sketches were brought to the attention of Mr. Savage, who inspected them. He said that his first impression was worse than his second; that he had called Mr. Rowan by telephone to get further information about the painter and that Mr. Rowan had informed him the artist, Mr. Nicolai Cikovsky, is a good painter, but that certain features of the design have been imposed upon him by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Savage said that he was going to criticize the sketches quite severely and approve them subject to these criticisms. The other members of the Commission also inspected the sketches and felt as Mr. Savage did in his criticisms. Mr. Savage drafted a report, which was approved by the Commission. (Exhibit C)

10. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR RESERVATION NEAR CAPITOL GROUNDS: Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, submitted a plan prepared by Mr. Frederick, landscape gardener, of his office, for the treatment of the reservation adjacent to the

northwest corner of the Capitol grounds on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between First and Third Streets, D. C. Mr. Lynn said there is now some planting on the reservation but it is not satisfactory.

Mr. Clarke made a number of criticisms of the design. It was thought that the point at the junction of Louisiana and Constitution Avenues would be an appropriate location for a memorial at some future time. A path across the reservation at Second Street extended was not favored.

Mr. Clarke said he would give some study to the drawing and indicate desirable changes.

11. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ANNEX: Mr. Lynn informed the Commission of a plan to place a mural painting in the two large reading rooms (measuring 70 by 100 feet) of the new Library of Congress Annex and asked for the names of competent artists to do the work. He said he had Mr. Ezra Winter in mind but that it might be advisable to conduct a competition.

The Commission felt that there should be no objection to conducting a limited competition and asked Mr. Savage to suggest the names of five to seven competent mural painters who might participate in such a competition. (Exhibit 1)

12. RESERVATION NORTH SIDE OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING: Mr. Borie reported that the small triangle north of the Archives Building is sadly in need of rehabilitation. It was recalled that Mr. Pope had made a plan for this triangle but that nothing had been done with it.

The Secretary was asked to ascertain from the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department the status of the project to landscape the area. Later in the day this matter was discussed with Mr. Pihren, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, who informed the Commission that he was not certain whether this reservation was under the jurisdiction of his office but that he would be glad to

look into the matter and possibly could arrange to improve the appearance of it. The Commission expressed their appreciation of Mr. Finnan's offer to do this. He said he would send a memorandum on the subject to the Commission.

13. DUPONT CIRCLE UNDERPASS: Mr. Finnan and Mr. Fairpatric of the office of National Capital Parks of the National Park Service, submitted a landscape plan for Dupont Circle showing necessary rearrangement of some of the planting that would be necessary in carrying out the scheme for an underpass under Dupont Circle, as is contemplated by the District Commissioners. Mr. Finnan said the underpass is to be 60 feet wide with its entrance 25 feet north and south of the circle. There is to be a cover of at least $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet of soil over the tunnel.

Particular attention was given to the necessity of a proper setting for the Dupont Memorial Fountain. Mr. Clarke said that the fountain should be raised 18 inches, using three risers. Also attention was called to the design of the entrances to the underpass. Mr. Finnan said that this matter is in the hands of Mr. Partridge, who is making a model of the scheme for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The office of National Capital Parks will give further study to the scheme.

14. NEW FENCE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS: Mr. Thomas E. Vint, Chief Architect of the National Park Service, submitted several tracings for the new fence to surround the White House grounds. This is to replace the old fence on the south, east and west sides of the grounds and is to be $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The steps and gate on West Executive Avenue will be re-arranged so as to provide for a more dignified entrance than the present one. The Commission inspected the drawings and approved them.

15. PEACE MONUMENT FOR GETTYSBURG MILITARY CEMETERY: Mr. Roy Larson of Dr. Cret's office submitted a design for a memorial shaft which is being given by the State of Pennsylvania in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary in 1938 of the

Battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Paul I. Roy, Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Memorial Commission, and Mr. James R. McConagie, Superintendent of the Gettysburg Military Park, were present, as was also Mr. Vint, Chief Architect of the National Park Service.

The Commission inspected the design. Mr. Larson said the memorial is to represent "Peace and Eternal Light", and to carry this out, there is to be a bronze lamp, which will burn gas or will be lighted by electricity, at the top of the shaft. The monument is to be 45 feet high and will be built of limestone with granite steps.

The sum of only \$43,000 is available for the memorial Mr. Larson said. The design provides for sculptural relief. The Commission suggested that the services of Mr. Lee Lawrie be secured for the proposed sculpture.

Considerable attention was given to the landscape plan for the memorial. Mr. Larson said the monument will be somewhat removed from the heterogeneous monuments in the cemetery. It is to be on Oak Ridge in the vicinity of Little Round Top. Mr. Clarke indicated desirable changes in the landscape plan. He emphasized the fact that provision should be made so that there will be no parking of automobiles or buses in front of the monument.

As to the inscription, Mr. Larson said this has not as yet been finally determined. Mr. Manship said it should fill the shaft more than it does.

The Commission approved the design for the monument and a letter was sent to the National Park Service accordingly. (Exhibit J)

16. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT REGULATIONS: The Secretary presented galley proofs for the proposed pamphlet on the Shipstead-Luce Act Regulations, together with a new Shipstead-Luce Act map prepared by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a print of which is to be included in the pamphlet.

The Commission approved the yellow print subject to a few changes in the introductory statement, including the adding of the names of the members of the Commission. The Secretary said he would submit a copy of the report to each member of the Commission before final printing.

17. OSCAR TERRELL HILL: The Secretary showed that Oscar Hill, a well known Congressman Celler of New York, had inquired about the Great Plains Memorial and had asked for an explanation of the way the Association is going forward toward erecting the memorial; that the Congressman was interested in the memorial to be along Fourteenth Street at the point where the Great Plains Memorial is being used now for an open air garage.

The Commission inspected the proposed plan for the Great Plains Memorial. Attention was called to a letter received from Professor Goodrich, a long time supporter of the project. (Exhibit 5) The Commission took up the question of the memorial, and decided to send a letter to Secretary Hill, the President of the President's Public Buildings Commission, asking him to consider this project. Also the Commission decided that the Great Plains Memorial Association should be allowed to proceed now with the erection of their memorial and that the Treasury should be asked to give the necessary space for it.

Later in the day the Commission discussed the plan with Mr. John Clark, Director of Planning, of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He said that his Commission had usually attended the plan as to the parking of 750 cars permanently in the Great Plains area. Mr. Clark said he considered this a well-considered scheme which would interfere with the commercial purposes of the Great Place; also this design for the Great Plains Memorial was approved by both the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Department of Fine Arts. Mr. Clark said he would confer with Professor Goodrich, the architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, concerning

the matter. A letter was sent to Secretary Ickes on the subject of the Great Plaza. (Exhibit J-1)

13. NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR, 1939: Mr. Nolen reported that Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, was favorable to the suggestion of the Commission of Fine Arts that a model illustrating the present and future Washington be made and exhibited at the New York World's Fair in 1939. The question of estimate is to be determined, Mr. Nolen said, in conference with certain model makers.

The Commission adjourned at 4:30 p. m. The Commission were the guests of Mr. Clarke at the Cosmos Club. After the luncheon an inspection trip was made to Meridian Hill Park and Franklin Square. The Commission were very favorably impressed with the improvement that had been made by the National Park Service in carrying out the new landscape plans for Franklin Park.

November 5, 1937.

Dear Mr. Hopper:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 3, 1937, considered the photograph of a full-sized sculptural model by Carl L. Seibert of New York City for the Apex Building. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Manslip the Commission of Fine Arts approved the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Mildred D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Inslee A. Hopper,
Assistant Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

November 3, 1937.

Dear Mr. Hopper:

The Commission on Fine Arts at their meeting on November 6, 1937, considered the photograph of a full-sized sculptural model by Miss Concetta Scarsaglione of New York City for the Apea Building. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Lunsford the Commission approved the model.

For the Commission on Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Inslee A. Hopper,
Assistant Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

November 1, 1937.

Dear Mr. Keller:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today had under consideration H. J. Res. 48, a joint resolution authorizing the erection of a memorial to the late Guglielmo Marconi, which you forwarded with your letter of September 28, with a request that an analysis of this Resolution be made and a report thereon sent to your Committee. The Commission of Fine Arts respectfully report as follows:

All will agree that Marconi was one of the world's great scientists; that his invention of wireless telegraphy benefits all people within the bounds of civilization. He belongs to the world.

Washington is primarily the capital of this nation. The nation should erect in Washington memorial to those who have deserved well of the Republic, both in war and in peace. At the same time Washington is one of the great and fine world capitals. It is also becoming what Napoleon was ambitious to make Paris--a capital of the world's taste.

A memorial to Marconi, carried out appropriately as a tribute to his contribution to the advance of civilization, would be a world monument. Thereby it would be an addition to the world of art, which has no physical boundaries.

The problem of location of the memorial is of first importance. That location should be distinct from association with memorials national in character. It should be important enough as to both site and treatment to make it at once an honor to Marconi, and a credit to American appreciation of his genius. Also and especially the memorial should be such as, to use the words of Thomas Jefferson, "To improve the taste of our countrymen, to increase their reputation, to reconcile to them the respect of the world and procure them its praise".

It is understood (and before beginning it should be made certain) that the amount of money available will be sufficient to insure the foregoing result.

The Commission of Fine Arts believe it desirable to amend the bill in line 4, so as to designate the name of an organization that would have charge of the erection of the memorial. The Commission will be glad to recommend a location for the proposed memorial and to advise as to a design as is contemplated by the bill.

Hon. Kent. E. Keller,
Chairman, Committee on
the Library,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT 2

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OCT 23 1937

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

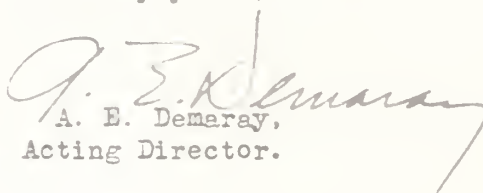
Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated October 12, requesting information as to the status of the contracts with Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander, and also enclosing a communication from Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, of the firm of McKim, Meade and White, advising that the contractors recommend the use of Georgia marble instead of granite for their groups.

Under date of August 25, 1936, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander were advised that the Budget Bureau had released sufficient funds for the completion of their contracts and they were requested to proceed with the remaining items of work necessary to complete the contracts. After a period of several months had lapsed, Mr. Friedlander personally visited the National Park Service and informed us that the price of granite had increased and that it would cost him, as well as Mr. Fraser, an additional \$25,000.00 to secure the granite. Mr. Friedlander requested that his contract be amended to provide for payment of the additional amount.

Representatives of this Service visited the General Accounting Office and explained the difficulty we were having in securing completion of the contracts. They were informally advised that the Government might be guilty of laches, which would probably warrant modification of the contracts provided the contractors could substantiate their claims for additional costs. We were not able, however, to proceed with the preparation of any tentative supplemental agreements involving additional compensation because of the lack of sufficient funds. An effort was made last spring to secure additional funds, but without success. At the present time, the Department is preparing a formal request to the Comptroller General for an opinion as to the legality of amending the contracts to provide for payment of the increased amounts. Should a favorable opinion be received, however, it would still be necessary to wait until impounded funds are released by the Budget, or until an appropriation is secured from Congress. As I understand the situation, there is little hope of completing the contracts within the next year or two unless the contractors are willing to complete the groups under the existing contracts, and then present formal claims for the additional amounts.

With reference to the substitution of Georgia marble for granite, I believe that this is an administrative matter which could be accomplished without any difficulty, especially in view of the action of your Commission at its meeting last winter. At this meeting, however, Mr. Friedlander was understood to state that he preferred to use marble but that there would be no appreciable savings over the cost of granite. In view of Mr. Kendall's letter, I would like to have definite information available as to how much could be saved by using Georgia marble in case some unexpected development should occur which would permit arrangements to be made with the contractors for the completion of the groups at an early date.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

November 11, 1937.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 5, 1937, unanimously agreed to the suggestion made by the sculptors for the statuary to flank the entrance of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, at the Lincoln Memorial Plaza, that Georgia marble be used instead of granite for their groups. The Commission were pleased to have your letter of October 23rd in connection with the consideration of the subject.

Mr. Paul Henshaw, the sculptor member of the Commission, stated: "In my personal experience, the Georgia marble is very much easier to work than granite and withstands out-of-door weather conditions excellently."

Both Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander were asked to state how much could be saved by using Georgia marble, instead of granite. Mr. Fraser replied: "The difference in cost comes only in carving, and I don't imagine that it would save more than 1,500 dollars on both groups. . . ." Mr. Friedlander has not given a definite figure, but has stated: "I firmly believe that a substantial saving can be effected. . . ."

The Commission of Fine Arts hope that the necessary arrangements can be made with the Comptroller General and the Bureau of the Budget, so that adequate funds will be made available for carrying out the project. It is certain that, had the sculptors been allowed to proceed with this sculpture in accordance with their contracts, they would not now be in this present predicament.

The sculpture of these equestrian groups is an important part of the Arlington Memorial Bridge commission. The pedestals for them are in place and the models for the statuary have been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. The sculpture will be a distinct contribution to the art of the National Capital. Its completion, therefore, without any further delay is much to be desired.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

County Office Building
White Plains, N. Y.

November 15, 1937.

Messrs. McKim, Mead and White,
101 Park Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 4, 1937, had under consideration the various details in connection with the general plan for the new Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge in Southeast Washington. The Commission respectfully report as follows:

1. Piers: All piers to be skewed. All "roads in plan, and cut-waters, to be omitted.
2. Abutments: The Commission disapprove the suggestion to have obelisks at each end of the bridge to mark the entrances; also the Commission are opposed to the use of exposed concrete on the wing walls. Bronze grilles should not be located so as to show on the exposed outer surfaces of the walls.
3. Sidewalks: The Commission concur in the suggestion to have six-foot concrete sidewalks and concrete gutters.
4. Lamp Posts: The Commission concur in the placing of the lamp posts on the railing, spaced over the piers at approximately 154-foot intervals. It is understood that this will result in staggering the posts.
5. Materials: The Commission agree that rock face finish should be avoided and concur in the suggestion for the use of granite with rough sawn or medium pointed finish. Seam faced granite should be avoided. The use of Aquia Creek stone was disapproved.
6. Painting: The Commission recommend that a warm gray paint be used on the exposed steel so that the color will harmonize with the color of the masonry. The Commission would welcome the use of stainless steel hand railing.
7. Shortening Wall at Ends of Bridge: The Commission concur in the suggestion that the long wall on the north side of the west abutment and also the corresponding wall on the south side of the east abutment be shortened as is indicated in yellow pencil on the blue print.

November 14, 1936.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on December 8, 1937, inspected your full sized drawing of the inscription for the General Arterias and Monument. The Commission recommended a few changes in the arrangement of the lettering so that the inscription will read as follows:

STEWART WARE
1724-1800
SON OF MASSACHUSETTS
GRADUATE OF HARVARD COLLEGE
JUDGE AND LEGISLATOR
DELEGATE 1760-1781
TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL CONGRESS
SOLDIER OF THREE WARS
FIRST COMMANDER
OF THE PATRIOT FORCES

This will give a more uniform arrangement of the inscription. It is understood that in the carving, the Roman "V-cut" letter will be used.

The Commission would like to see a revised blue print in accordance with the above recommendations before final approval of the inscription.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Charles,
Chairman.

J. F. Manning Co., Inc.,
1726 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

November 2, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today inspected the scale colored sketches of proposed mural decorations for the Interior Department Building by Mr. Nicolai Cikovsky and approved the sketches with the following recommendations and suggestions:

The compositions lose considerably in monumental quality by reason of the diversity in the scale of the figures. Two or possibly three scales are well but where each figure has its own scale the result is disturbing and suggests that impermanent quality currently known as "illustration".

It is unfortunate to cut off the leg of the figure on the right in the date-picking composition. Some of the line and space relationships jerk the eye around the composition and feel disturbingly brittle.

The long line of the irrigation ditch drives out that composition whereas it might have been relieved if one of the workers opposed and crossed the line with his body.

The other three compositions seem to be in reach of good organization in general plan but are in need of more studied relationships in their local parts, as for example, the composition of elements in the circle in the date-picking composition. With the above considerations the Commission recommends further study before execution.

The desert scene is quite acceptable as it stands.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

ETHIPIA C

6003
November 10, 1937.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 6, 1937, considered a design, submitted by Dr. Paul Crot, architect, and representatives of the Gettysburg Memorial Commission, for a monument which is being given by the State of Pennsylvania in commemoration of the 75th anniversary in 1936 of the Battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Vint of your office was present during the discussion.

The Commission approved the design. Some suggestions were made as to the proposed sculpture and the landscape treatment of the grounds.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1936.

Mr. Charles Moore,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

This will acknowledge your letter of April 20, calling to my attention certain public improvement projects in the District of Columbia which you feel should be brought to an early completion.

I am informed that the office of the Supervising Architect of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, has prepared preliminary estimates for the completion of the Great Plaza in the triangle area. The total of these estimates is \$500,000 of which \$90,000 is for landscaping. I am suggesting to the Secretary of the Treasury that he authorize the Director of Procurement to submit these estimates through the proper channels.

I am also suggesting to him that the Supervising Architect of the Procurement Division give immediate attention to your excellent suggestion that trees be planted around the triangle on Pennsylvania Avenue lying between the Commerce Building and the Washington Hotel. The planting of trees at this area would in no way affect future plans. I believe every effort should be made to bring about early completion of the Pennsylvania Gift Fountain proposed for this site by your Commission, and provided for by the Act approved June 21, 1930, entitled "Joint Resolution to permit the Pennsylvania Gift Fountain Association to erect a fountain in the District of Columbia" (46 Stat. 797).

Because of their architectural and historical value, I am deeply interested in preserving the Bulfinch gatehouses and posts. Your recommendation that their orientation be changed so that they face on Constitution Avenue should receive every consideration from the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, and I am sure that Service will submit an estimate for this work at an appropriate time.

Very sincerely yours,

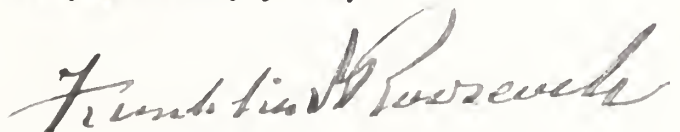


EXHIBIT J

November 12, 1937.

My dear Mr. Ickes:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 6, 1937, gave consideration to the plan for the Great Plaza in the "Triangle" area along Fourteenth Street east of the Department of Commerce Building. This plan has been held in abeyance for a number of years, but on May 12, 1936, President Roosevelt expressed his interest in the project and wrote the Commission as follows:

"I am informed that the office of the Supervising Architect of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, has prepared preliminary estimates for the completion of the Great Plaza in the triangle area. The total of these estimates is \$500,000 of which \$9,000 is for landscaping. I am suggesting to the Secretary of the Treasury that he authorize the Director of Procurement to submit these estimates through the proper channels."

A copy of this letter is inclosed.

The area comprising the Great Plaza is now being used for an open-air garage and is an eyesore in the heart of the National Capital, fully 1,500 cars are parked there every day. We have heard, however, that the Treasury Department is willing to dispense with the parking as soon as an appropriation is made available for carrying out the Great Plaza plan. The Commission of Fine Arts, therefore, recommend that the Great Plaza Plan be included in the immediate Public Buildings Program of the President for the District of Columbia.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore T. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Chairman,
President's Committee for a Federal
Buildings Program in the District
of Columbia.

The Commission recessed for lunch from 1:10 to 2 p.m., and then reconvened for a joint meeting with the Commission of Fine Arts.

The following members of the Park and Planning Commission were present:

MR. F. A. DELANO, Chairman.
MR. CAMTERER, Vice Chairman.
COL. ADKINS.
COL. SULTAN. (CAPT. TANSEY represented COL. SULTAN until his arrival).
MR. KYLIE.
MR. NICHOLS.
MR. W. A. DELANO.
MR. HUBBARD.

The following members of the Commission of Fine Arts were present:

MAJ. GILMORE CLARK, Chairman.
MR. BORIE.
MR. SHEPLEY.
MR. MANSHIP.
MR. CAMTERER, Secretary.

33. Flood Control Dike:

MR. NOLEN read to the Commission the following letter from the U. S. Engineer Office:

"December 15, 1937.

"Subject: Potomac Park Flood Protection Levee.

To: National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D. C.

1. There were presented to the Staff of the Commission last week two drawings showing location for the proposed Potomac Park flood protection levee covering that section located on the Monument grounds east of 17th Street.

2. It is urgently requested that the Commission take final action as to the location for this levee at its meeting to be held December 16 and 17. The matter has been before the Commission on several occasions in the past, and a few months ago when I appeared before the Commission to explain the features of the project. The need for expediting the matter lies in the fact that funds are now available in this office to initiate the work immediately if a decision can be had in the matter. A further circumstance is that approximately 50% of the funds are for emergency relief, and it is the desire of the Department to fulfill its obligation in employing relief labor.

3. This office is not much concerned as to where the levee is located, but only in its finally approved location. The Coordinating Committee has made a recommendation on this project.

(Sgd) W. D. Luplow,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer."

The Coordinating Committee has recommended that the dike be located in the Monument Grounds, as desired by the Park Office, because of its temporary nature, and because it will facilitate operation of the tennis courts.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that if the Commission would agree to the plan developed by MR. JEFFERS, and explained to them by MR. KIRKPATRICK, the Fine Arts Commission is prepared to proceed on that recommendation. The Commission of Fine Arts advocated completing the grading and eliminating the tennis courts, and hopes that they might be located elsewhere. Plan bearing File No. 1.7-91 meets with the approval of that Commission.

MR. HUBBARD stated he believed that that would be about the opinion of this Commission.

Discussion included removal of the tennis courts and provision for other courts, and that the new location of any tennis courts should be included in the Commission's recommendation; that the tennis courts might be removed to the proposed recreation area east of the railroad embankment in Potomac Park.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Commission approves plan bearing File No. 1.7-91 for the flood control dike, with the recommendation that the tennis courts should be removed.

34. Columbia Island Plaza and Lee Boulevard Connection:

MR. FINNAN reported that his office had been doing considerable work in grading the north end of Columbia Island with CCC labor; that the plans call for a parking space at the upper end of the island where 244 cars can be accommodated. Funds have been allocated to the Bureau of Public Roads to build the connection between Columbia Island and the Lee Boulevard terminus at the Rosslyn-Alexandria Pike. A temporary timber bridge has been built across Columbia Island. The contractor is now building an overpass over the railroad tracks and the roadway is being constructed. By this coming Spring, the Bureau of Public Roads will complete the Lee Boulevard connection. It is his understanding that the State of Virginia will complete its work within the next month. The Bureau of Public Roads will proceed immediately after bids are submitted and awards made to complete the fill up to the power house in Rosslyn and carry the George Washington Memorial Parkway road into the Rosslyn plaza, and is proceeding to surface the road along the shore. The third project will be for grading and surfacing the upper parkway road. \$342,000 has been allocated to cover the construction of the Lee Boulevard connection and the parkway roads to the Rosslyn plaza. Any balance remaining will be used on the underpass and extra span of Key Bridge.

Discussion included the question of whether the parking area and other phases of the Columbia Island plan are being carried out. whether the Park Service should proceed on the assumption that the street cars will continue to operate over Key Bridge and terminate in Rosslyn; type of connection to Roosevelt Island; design of walls, walks and other exterior features of main plaza.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Columbia Island plans be restudied so that when the roadway construction is started, it will be presumed to be a final decision as to just what plaza plan will be fitted.

35. Roosevelt Island Plans:

MR. NOLEN submitted MR. OLMSTED'S report on this subject, attached as APPENDIX C.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that the Fine Arts Commission has read the report and concurs in it, except that while it is probably not within the realm of its duty, the Fine Arts Commission expresses the hope that a Superintendent's house will not be incorporated in the plans for the Island. MR. CAMMERER'S office is in accord with this recommendation.

MR. NOLEN stated that under the law, the Commission is required to approve the development plans for the Island. The report was not transmitted to the Commission members, because copies were received only this week.

The Chairman suggested that the matter be passed over until the following day, to give the Commission an opportunity to study the report.

COL. SULTAN joined the meeting at this point.

36. Dupont Circle Underpass:

CAPT. WHITEHURST, Director of Highways of the District, explained the details of the model and plans for the Dupont Circle underpass and redesign.

Discussion included the Fine Arts Commission's interest in the design of the retaining walls and portals, in that they should be as simple as possible; that considerable money can be saved if rigid frame construction is adopted; the clearance above the tunnel; the Fine Arts Commission's recommendation that the fountain be raised about 18 inches so that it can be more readily seen.

MOTION unanimously carried that plan bearing File No. 21-157 for the Dupont Circle underpass and redesign be approved in principle.

37. New York World's Fair:

MR. NOLEN reported that the New York World's Fair authorities have developed 12 themes for the Government exhibits that do not lend themselves to a comprehensive and proper exhibit of the National Capital, although designed to represent all the activities of the Government. The Commission's exhibit on the National Capital is proposed to be included under the exhibit of Education, Arts and Recreation.

MR. PARTRIDGE attended a meeting called by representatives of the New York Fair, and it appears to him that there will be no allotments to any Government departments, that the work will be done in New York under prepared specifications and contracts, and that the departments would merely cooperate by supplying them with information.

MR. PARTRIDGE also attended a meeting of the Committee on the Education, Arts, and Recreation Theme, composed of representatives of educational arts and other allied activities. At this meeting, the Smithsonian Institution decided that they would not participate because they did not believe that the space provided an appropriate exhibit for their activities. The feeling of the staff of this Commission is also that no ample space is provided for its exhibit. MR. PARTRIDGE suggested the possibility of incorporating the Commission's exhibit as a special feature.

MR. H. P. CAEMMERER, Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, stated that his Commission is desirous of having a model of the future Washington exhibited at the Fair, and that this would be the central feature of the National Capital's exhibit.

MR. J. M. UPCHURCH of the New York Fair was present and stated that he was sympathetic to such a proposal, but had no authority to speak. At the group meeting Saturday morning to discuss the Education, Arts and Recreation theme, it was agreed that representatives of this Commission and the Fine Arts Commission would submit to MR. LLOYD, Co-Chairman, recommendations for the exhibits, which in turn would be given to the Fair Commissioners for their action.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that the Fine Arts Commission proposed what it did because the Planning Commission was planning on a certain type of exhibit. It was his feeling that the plan of the National Capital should be in a prominent place in the building, and that the work of the two Commissions should be represented in the plan of the National Capital.

MR. UPCHURCH stated that changes are being made in the exhibit building plans, and no commitments can be made yet as to space allotments.

MR. DELANO felt that the Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission should express the views of this Commission.

MOTION unanimously carried that the two Commissions feel that an adequate and carefully prepared model of the Capital City should be appropriately displayed in the Government building at the New York World's Fair, and that, commensurate with the dignity and importance of the National Capital, it should have a place of importance not confused with the several themes into which the Government building is divided.

38. San Francisco World Fair:

The consensus of opinion was that the two Commissions take the same attitude with respect to this exhibit as is taken with respect to the New York World's Fair.

39. Great Plaza Landscape Plan: (See also Par. 44):

MR. W. E. REYNOLDS and MR. LOUIS SIMON of the Procurement Division present for discussion of this subject.

MR. NOLLEN stated that this subject was before the Commission about a year ago, at which time a number of letters were exchanged with the Treasury Department, and a plan providing for parking finally approved and submitted to them. The original plan was approved in January 1934. A subsequent plan was developed and approved by the Commission, incorporating a number of changes in the original plan and recommendations concerning the parking of automobiles.

There appeared to be some question as to the actual plan approved by the two Commissions, and the Fine Arts Commission objected to the latest plan of the Commission as to the rows of trees not being on the center of the two pavilions.

Discussion by the two Commissions included the question of whether the construction of the Strauss Memorial should be undertaken at the same time the plaza development is undertaken; opinion of the Treasury Department that the Strauss Memorial should not be undertaken in advance of the plaza development, and the feeling that the two should be undertaken at the same time; previous actions of the Commission with respect to these plans; criticism of MAJ. CLARKE that it is improper to locate the two rows of trees off center of the two pavilions; the opinion of the Fine Arts Commission that they do not want any parking in that area, because this is primarily a park and not a plaza for the parking of automobiles; that the Strauss Memorial people will probably object very strongly to the parking of automobiles around the Memorial.

The Commission agreed that this matter be taken under advisement again and discussed the following morning when the Chairman might be present.

MR. REYNOLDS stated that the Procurement Division is radically opposed to parking in this area, and are going on the theory that the Government is not responsible for providing parking space for Government employees; that the matter of parking in Washington is not an important consideration here because of the cheap taxi service in Washington; that this plan is merely a glorified parking area. The Procurement Division has prepared tentative sketches of this plan and holds the opinion that the development of this Plaza and the Strauss Memorial should be carried on at the same time.

MESSRS. REYNOLDS and SIMON withdrew at this point.

40. Shipstead Regulations and Extension of Area:

MR. NOLEN reported that the Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission has suggested that the Shipstead Act be amended to make it applicable to all parks in the District of Columbia, shown in green on the 1935 Highway Map. The staff does not concur in this view, and considers that it would be very unwise to broaden its scope to this extent.

The Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission distributed printed copies of the Act and the regulations under which it is being administered, which are being distributed to builders and architects.

MAJ. CLARKE stated that the Fine Arts Commission has taken no action on this matter, but doubted the wisdom of proceeding at this time to amend the Act and enlarge its scope because of the question of whether the courts will allow the police power to be extended as far as the amendment contemplated. He expressed the hope, however, that the Commission would have its staff go into the matter.

MOTION unanimously carried that a Committee, consisting of MR. HUBBARD, representing the Park and Planning Commission, and MAJ. CLARKE, representing the Fine Arts Commission, go into the question of extending the scope of the Shipstead Act, and that this Committee make recommendations concerning areas that should be considered for inclusion in the Act; that the staff of this Commission will make a study of the various areas that should be considered for inclusion, and that the Committee of the two Commissions will submit reports for final approval. The two Commissions also instructed that COL. SULTAN be consulted.

MR. NOLEN stated that it had been customary to include any buildings within the areas authorized to be acquired by the Federal Government as being subject to the Shipstead Act, but he and CAPT. ORAM, Executive Officer of the Zoning Commission, feel that they should not be included.

41. Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis Area Report:

MR. NOLEN reported that copies of the report on this project have been sent to members of the Commission. Briefly, this report gives the Commission's regional plan considerable prominence, and perhaps the most important proposal in the report is the one to extend the area of planning jurisdiction. It is also proposed in the report to set up a permanent Coordinating Committee, sponsored by the Maryland State Planning Commission, on which would be representatives of the different agencies involved in coordinating plans for the regional area. The report also goes into the question of preserving the shores of Chesapeake Bay for public bathing purposes, and present gradual elimination of their use by the general public on account of the intensive private development taking place. It is MR. NOLEN'S opinion that some control of this type of development should be set up.

No action.

42. Disease Hazard to Washington's Elms:

MR. A. ROBERT THOMPSON, Forester of the National Park Service, appeared and discussed the diseases that are attacking the elms in and about Washington. He stated that the disease which has appeared in about 50 trees around the Tidal Basin, was discovered several years ago, and appears to attack the trees at the top and go down. The botanical name of this disease is *Cephalosporium*, and was discovered while the Agriculture Department was studying the Dutch elm disease. Apparently the extreme winter and drought conditions have caused this disease. It seems to be spread by the wind and rain, and carried from tree to tree by the leaves. It has been observed that it is most prevalent where the diseased trees are in contact with one another. No special cure has been devised for this disease, but the Agriculture Department is experimenting with inoculation and pruning methods. Another disease known as the "elm spread" is being found in Washington. No definite means of arresting the spread of these diseases has been discovered, although the Agriculture Department is hopeful of discovering a cure before the disease becomes too prevalent.

MR. THOMPSON submitted the following recommendations:

A request has been transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior for an allotment of \$75,000 to be used for determining the extent of the *Cephalosporium* disease in Washington. The task is relatively slow since cultures have to be made from each sampled tree in the city.

Pending the results of this survey it appears to be good judgment to suspend elm planting in this vicinity at least in quantity.

In view of the diseases of elm which are present now and those which threaten, it is respectively urged that reconsideration be given to plans for the treatment of the Mall. In the writer's opinion, which is backed by the opinion of some of the best plant pathologists in the country, the chances of bringing the present eight rows of Mall elms to maturity are slight.

Authorities recognize the hazard of concentrating any one species in such a planting because of the danger of insect or disease attack. The solution, from this viewpoint, would be to use a relatively large number of species in the treatment of the Mall so that if one or two species are attacked, the general appearance would not be ruined.

He also submitted a brief report, which is attached as APPENDIX D.

COL. SULTAN requested MR. THOMPSON to examine a large tree in Judiciary Square just south of the new police court building on E Street, which appears to be suffering from a disease of some kind.

MR. NOLEN, in reviewing the Commission's action in 1932, concerning the trees in the Mall, stated that the decision was made for the elms because of the feeling that there was so much to be gained by having elms, that it would be better to take a chance for five or ten years by planting elms and "find out what happens".

RECESS: The Commission recessed at 5:30 p.m., and reconvened the following morning at 9:30 a.m.